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REMARKS

Claims 21-26 are pending in the application. The specification has been amended to update the status of a related application that has now issued. Reconsideration, a withdrawal of the rejection, and a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Claims 21-26 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,558,651. In response, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). Accordingly, a withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully solicited.

Applicants note that the filing of a terminal disclaimer to obviate a rejection based on nonstatutory double patenting is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection. See Quad Environmental Technologies Corp. v. Union Sanitary District, 946 F.2d 870, 20 USPQ2d 1392 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In particular, the Court indicates that the "filing of a terminal disclaimer simply serves the statutory function of removing the rejection of double patenting, and raises neither a presumption nor estoppel on the merits of the rejection". Quad, 20 USPQ2d at 1394, 1395.

The points of the Office Action being addressed in full, a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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